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TOR: 250255Z MAY 84

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P 242305Z MAY 84
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY 8229
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 154091

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: SENATOR PELL'S LETTER TO THE SECRETARY

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 5832, (B) STATE 120062

1. AS REQUESTED, TEXT OF SENATOR PELL'S LETTER TO THE
SECRETARY ON FAS BOMBING OF ICRC DISTRIBUTION POINTS
FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE HONORABLE
GEORGE P. SHULTZ
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20520

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE SALVADORAN
ARMED FORCES HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ADVANCE NOTICE OF
MOVEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
(ICRC) IN CONFLICT ZONES TO ATTACK SITES WHERE CIVILIANS

HAVE GATHERED TO RECEIVE ICRC ASSISTANCE. IN SOME CASES,
CASUALTIES HAVE RESULTED; AND IN OTHERS, CIVILIANS HAVE
BEEN DETERRED FROM SEEKING ICRC ASSISTANCE OR THE ICRC
HAS HAD TO SUSPEND ITS WORK.

IN MY VIEW, IT IS HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE TO USE THE ICRC
AS, IN EFFECT, A SPOTTER OF CIVILIAN TARGETS FOR MILITARY
ACTION. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT, THEREFORE, IF
YOU COULD HAVE AMBASSADOR PICKERING RAISE THIS ISSUE
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR WITH A VIEW TOWARD
OBTAINING AN ASSURANCE THAT KNOWLEDGE OF ICRC ACTIVITIES
WILL NOT BE USED FOR INHUMANE PURPOSES.

WITH EVERY GOOD WISH.

EVER SINCERELY,

CLAIBORNE PELL

END TEXT

2. DEPARTMENT REPLIED AS FOLLOWS:

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TOR: 250255Z MAY 84

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BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR SENATOR PELL:

I AM RESPONDING TO YOUR LETTER OF MAY 3 TO THE SECRETARY
IN WHICH YOU EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE
SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES ARE MISUSING THEIR CONTACTS WITH
THE ICRC. WE HAVE ASKED OUR EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR TO
INVESTIGATE TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY BASIS FOR THESE
ALLEGATIONS. I ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
THESE CHARGES AND IF THERE IS ANY SUBSTANCE TO THEM WE
WILL CONVEY OUR CONCERNS TO THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT.

SINCERELY,

W. TAPLEY BENNETT, JR.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

THE HONORABLE
CLAIBORNE PELL,
UNITED STATES SENATE.

END TEXT
SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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